H.O.

(639)

SATURDAY, December 9, 1876. [CONFIDENTIAL.

SELECTIONS

FROM THE

VERNACULAR NEWSPAPERS

PUBLISHED IN THE PANJAB,

NORTH-WESTERN PROVINCES,

OUDH, AND CENTRAL PROVINCES,

Received up to 2nd December, 1876.

POLITICAL.

GENERAL.

The *Rahbar-i-Hind* of the 25th November says that the Calcutta journals are wrong in demanding absolute independence for the High Court and exempting it even from the control of the Viceroy. The editor agrees with the *Panjab Intelligencer* in thinking that this tribunal should be subject to the control and supervision of the Viceroy, who is the representative of Her Majesty the Queen in India. It is a matter of serious anxiety that independence, if granted to the High Court, is sure to be abused in favour of Europeans. The sympathy of race is usually found to bias the verdict of European jurors in favour of their countrymen. What surety is there that the European judge will not yield to the force of race-feelings? Race-feeling or partiality is as irresistible in its influence as the love of money. The claims of the High Court to total independence defy all comprehension. Can it be pretended that the High Court is as infallible as an angel, or the Pope of Rome? Or has the assumption of the title of

Empress by Her Majesty conferred any peculiar privileges upon this tribunal? The notorious Fuller case has taught Europeans how important for them it is that the absolute power of the High Court should be free from any interference on the part of the Governor-General. They are persuaded that if the supremacy of the High Court remains intact, they will continue to enjoy the indulgence of the law as hitherto, even if the Governor-General were moved to extend to natives the benefits and advantages at the disposal of the Government, hitherto exclusively enjoyed by Europeans. It was from political considerations that Lord Lytton felt himself called upon to interfere in the case Regina *versus* Fuller. The High Court is liable to the control of the executive in questions which affect the administration and government of the country. If Europeans are allowed to perpetrate their murderous deeds with practical impunity, an inveterate hatred will grow up in the minds of the natives towards the ruling race. In the event of any dangerous outbreak, the entire burden of responsibility will rest with the Governor-General and the Governors, and not with the judges of the High Court, whose first concern will be to put their law books up to public auction, and make the best of their way home. The murder of the poor syce has not been avenged on Mr. Fuller; but even the reprimand administered by Lord Lytton has been sufficient to throw the Anglo-Indian community into convulsions. Natives will do well to take a lesson from Europeans in feeling for their fellow-countrymen. It must always be their ardent desire to seek redress of their grievances at the hands of the Government, and to promote the welfare of their country.

The *Shold-i-Tar* of the 28th November, learning that the Government is contemplating the release of prisoners whose remaining term of confinement is less than six months in honour of the first day of January next, looks upon the measure as quite unworthy of the auspicious occasion. Any display of leniency and mercy to common criminals, who have

been justly condemned to imprisonment by the law, is absolutely uncalled for. They are not at all deserving of consideration in connection with the rejoicings of the proclamation ceremony. If the Government is anxious to imitate oriental customs on this occasion, there are other ways of showing joy and generosity, by which none but the innocent and deserving may be benefited. Do away with the tax levied by municipalities upon poor traders and shopkeepers, who find it very difficult to support their families with their extremely small income. Distribute alms throughout the British dominions to the poor and destitute. Let the Government liberate the prisoners who have been legally thrown into prison by their creditors, and pay their debts. Nothing will justify our pious Government in releasing criminals from lawful imprisonment.

The *Patiala Akhbár* of the 27th November says that the Anglo-Indian press and correspondents of some vernacular papers have seriously mooted the question of the postponement of the Delhi durbar in consideration of the distress prevailing in the Deccan. They argue against the propriety of spending a large amount of public money on a durbar, while thousands of fellow-creatures are dying of hunger. These sentiments are good as far as they go, inasmuch as they savour of sympathy and patriotism, but political considerations prevent us from recommending them to the Government. As far as the Government has proceeded in dealing with the famine, we have little or nothing to complain. But it is proper that the chiefs and the people should also liberally come forward to the assistance of the Government in relieving the starving sufferers. Moreover, the money raised for the support of the wounded soldiers, widows, and orphans in Turkey should be devoted to the relief of the famine-stricken districts in the Deccan. The latter have stronger claims on our charity than the former. As regards the Delhi assemblage, it is now too late to think of postponing it. The report of its grandeur and pomp has spread all over the world, and the suspension of such a happy and auspicious ceremonial will be immensely

derogatory to the imperial dignity. The neighbouring states will find in it an argument of the weakness of the English Government, seeing that it had to give up the durbar in order to grapple with the famine difficulty. It will be a cause of great disappointment to the native chiefs also, who have spent large sums of money in fitting themselves up for the durbar.

The *Panjábi Akhbár* of the 25th November says that natives are very loud in asserting their claims to higher offices in the public service. They are unable to understand why they do not stand on a footing of equality in the eyes of the Government with Europeans in the matter of higher appointment. Is there any lack of ability on their part? Is it their loyalty that the Government doubts? Have they no rights to reap profit from their native land? Are not the time and labour spent by them in the pursuit of knowledge worthy the consideration of the Government? True, says the editor, they have all these things, but they have one defect which outweighs all their virtues and excellences. They are the conquered and subject race. This is the secret of all. Heaven has created India for the sole enjoyment of Europeans. It is the fate, and must be the pride, of natives to be engaged on manual labour. It is the duty of natives to plough, to sow, and to cultivate, but it is for their European conquerors to reap the harvest. Natives are, as it were, the judgment-debtors, and Europeans the decree-holders. This being the verdict of the inexorable fates, all our entreaties and importunities will be of no avail; but, on the contrary, our complaints will be injurious to ourselves. It is the Europeans with whom we claim equality in reference to high and lucrative appointments. It is these very Europeans who have the power to grant us this boon. But as the grant of the boon clashes with their personal interests, one may easily imagine how they will receive our complaints. Our complaints will never fail to call forth unfavourable feelings towards us. The sympathy or partiality of the Government for its own countrymen cannot allow it to sacrifice their interests in favour of the natives. When we raise our voices in

urging our claims to the higher grades of the service, the Government is obliged to find out a plausible excuse to silence our disagreeable clamours; and of course the best makeshift upon which it naturally falls back is to condemn us for incompetence and incapacity. The more loudly we assert our claims, the more emphatically are we declared to be incompetent. Our Secretary of State expressly promises in public meetings to improve the condition of the natives. Our future emperor, the Prince of Wales, recommends the natives as worthy objects of pity and kindness; but all to no purpose. It may thus be seen that the policy of the Government is to make fools of us. Our countrymen will therefore do well not to seek to injure themselves by indulging in unwelcome complaints.

NATIVE STATES.

The *Rahhar-i-Hind* of the 25th November says that if the Government doubted at the very outset the ability of the council of regency, nominated by the Maharajas of Jhind and Nábha, to conduct the affairs of Patiala, it should have withheld its consent. The two maharajas have no doubt the right of nominating members for the council in virtue of the existing treaty stipulations, but the Government has a veto. Mr. Lepel Griffin expressly said in his speech, delivered at the time of announcing the appointment of the present council of regency, that if the council failed to give satisfaction, the Government would be obliged to depute an able European officer for the management of the affairs of the state. From this surmise it appears that the Government anticipated that the members nominated by the two maharajas were incompetent and unfit for the task for which they were selected; and, in fair justice to the state, the Government should not have consented to their election. Thus far, therefore, the conduct of the Government is not altogether free from blame. Since the appointment of the council, there is no end to the changes and transfers of the officers of the state, which must be ascribed to some reason or other, and the natural result of which

will be that misunderstanding will arise between the council and its subordinates. The sad results that will flow from this mutual hatred will be very prejudicial to the interests of the state. In these circumstances the best thing that the Government can do is to displace Sirdar Deva Singh by Khalifa Muhammad Hasan as president, with whose ability and talents the Government itself is well acquainted.

A correspondent of the above paper, writing from Umballa on the same subject, notices that the able and experienced officers, who were much valued and respected in the time of the late Maharaja, have receded into the back ground, and have ceased to be looked upon as important and influential personages in the state. The council has raised incompetent and inexperienced men to high and responsible offices. Sirdar Deva Singh is, indeed, a man of sense, and has an imposing appearance, but he is quite illiterate, peevish, and spiteful. He is of a hasty and light temper. He is not true to his word. Ingratitude is also a prominent characteristic of his conduct. He is, moreover, under the evil influence of a few wicked persons who are smarting under the pain inflicted by the late Maharaja. Although the two members of the council have equal authority and power with the president, yet the readiness in speaking and artful dexterity of Deva Singh have reduced his colleagues to insignificance. The writer then proceeds to warn the council, that if it does not reconcile and indemnify the officers, unreasonably degraded or transferred by it, and work amicably in harmony with its subordinates, the members and the officers must look upon their fate as already sealed. They will all be deprived of their power, and a European officer appointed to administer the affairs of the state.

A correspondent of the *Koh-i-Núr* of the 25th November defends the president and the members of the council of regency at Patiala from the charges brought against them by an interested correspondent of the *Rahbar-i-Hind* dated

28th October (*vide* "Selections" for the week ending the 4th November, 1876, page 618). These three gentlemen, who have been elected to the council, are the best men the state can show in ability, experience, and honesty. They have filled the highest offices in the state. With other faithful servants of the state they fell under the displeasure of the late Maharaja, when he gave himself up to drunkenness and debauchery under the evil influence of a whore, who was used as an instrument by those men who are now discontented at the present administration to carry out their ends and purposes. Horrible acts of injustice were committed by the Maharaja during this period of infatuation, which lasted till his death. Strange to say, these men themselves used to inform the Government of their master's drunkenness and debauchery, of which they themselves were the cause. Khalifa Muhammad Hasan is one of this party.

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION.

The *Rahbar-i-Hind* of the 25th November, learning from the *Panjab Intelligencer* that the Lahore Volunteer Corps, about one hundred strong, has been invited to the imperial assemblage at Delhi—although the corps is very backward in military drill—is astonished to find that Eurasians are so much trusted by the Government that they are enlisted as volunteers in spite of their incompetence, while strong and robust Hindus and Musalmans are not admitted to the privilege. This is a great political blunder. If the Government thinks fit to constitute native volunteer corps, they will prove of inestimable value to it in encountering the Russians.

The *Rahbar-i-Hind* of the 28th November complains of the hatred of the Deputy Commissioner of Gujranwalla towards the natives, as evinced by his conduct in the treatment of the honorary magistracies of the district. Five offices have successively fallen vacant, and not a single vacancy has yet been filled up. From this it may rightly be inferred that the Deputy Commissioner does not like to see natives filling any

respectable office, even if the office does not carry any remuneration with it. The institution of honorary magistrates is not only useful in relieving the regular courts of justice of a portion of their judicial work, but is beneficial in other respects also. Respectable gentlemen take a share in the administration of their country, and have a chance of proving their ability to the Government. Suitors are also enabled to have prompt justice administered to them nearer home, without undergoing the trouble and inconvenience of a regular court, particularly when situated at a distance. In one instance the conduct of the Deputy Commissioner was very arbitrary. When Sirdar Jhinda Singh, an Honorary Magistrate, applied for six months' leave on account of illness, the Deputy Commissioner, instead of granting him leave, withdrew the powers not only from him but also from his son.

A correspondent of the *Oudh Akhbár* of the 26th November says that the prospect of promotion into the higher grades of the civil service has been long fantalizing the natives. Promises have been made to them by the Government from time to time, but how far they have made good needs no comment. No signs are yet visible of their fulfilment, and the natives stand as much removed from the civil service now as ever. Of course one or two elections out of millions of people, made with a view to shut the mouths of natives from complaining, do not deserve to be taken into account. In these circumstances it would be quite unbecoming on the part of the Government to overlook the claims of natives to offices for which they are eminently fitted, and which have been regarded as their birthright from time immemorial. The office of Madar-ul-Mahám, or minister in native states during the minority of the chiefs, has until lately invariably been conferred upon natives. But of late this custom has been frequently departed from, and Europeans have taken the place of natives. There is no dearth of able and honest administrators among natives. They are as competent to manage the affairs of states as any European. A European has stepped into the shoes of Nawab

Fáiz Ali Khán who lately resigned his office in Kotah. The chiefs of Murshadabad, Chamba, and Kapurthala are alive, but as their ability to administer their affairs is doubted, European officers are appointed to look after them. It is strange that even at the present time of economy and reduction these officers are maintained at the Government expense. There are Government agents at Alwar, Dholpur, Jhalrapatan, Bahawalpur, and Ahmednagar, owing to the minority of their chiefs.

The *Oudh Akhbár* of the 29th November says that the police service is naturally the resort of low and illiterate persons. Every man has to commence his career as a constable on five rupees a month. A low and unconscientious man will be ready enough to accept this post where he will have ample opportunities of largely supplementing his low remuneration by illegal means. This is enough to account for the rarity of educated and respectable men in the police department, and for the prevalence of vices so universally and bitterly complained of by the people. If the Government sees fit to appoint respectable and able men to suitable posts in the Police Department, the status of the department would be much improved in the eyes of the people, and most of the vices now prevalent in that service would disappear of themselves.

EDUCATION.

The *Urdu Akhbár* (Akola) of the 25th November remarks that the Director of Public Instruction of Berar is bent on enforcing retrenchment of public expenditure in the Education Department. But it must be noticed that this retrenchment has no connection with the economy which the embarrassed state of the public finances has compelled the Government of India to enjoin on the various local Governments, because Berar does in reality belong to the Nizam. Nor does this retrenchment extend over the whole Education Department, but is strictly confined to the Urdu Branch. It may thus be seen that the retrenching policy of the Director affects only the Mussalmans. The same officer is said to be meditating the abolition of all the Urdu schools, one lower class

respectable offices, even if the office does not carry any remuneration with it. The institution of honorary magistrates is not only useful in relieving the regular courts of justice of a portion of their judicial work, but is beneficial in other respects also. Respectable gentlemen take a share in the administration of their country, and have a chance of proving their ability to the Government. Suitors are also enabled to have prompt justice administered to them nearer home, without undergoing the trouble and inconvenience of a regular court, particularly when situated at a distance. In one instance, the conduct of the Deputy Commissioner was very arbitrary. When Sirdar Jhinda Singh, an Honorary Magistrate, applied for six months' leave on account of illness, the Deputy Commissioner, instead of granting him leave, withdrew the powers not only from him but also from his son.

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of Urdu being attached to Mahrathi schools. The pay of the Deputy Inspector of the Urdu schools has been reduced from Rs. 150 to Rs. 125. The Director being a Mahratta condemns the Urdu language, and is undoing the work of his distinguished predecessor, Mr. Sinclare.

The *Urdu Akhbár* (in Mahrathi) of the 25th November bitterly complains of the harsh and insolent conduct of Mr. Mackintosh, the Headmaster of the High School, Omraoti. Several instances are given in corroboration of the above statement. His severity towards the servants is notorious. His behaviour towards the assistant masters and the students of the school is equally blameable. There are no signs of improvement in the school, but on the contrary, it has become worse since it came under his charge.

The same paper remonstrates against the policy which the Director of Public Instruction of Berar has adopted of curtailing the pay of officers in the Education Department. This scheme of reduction will be a great discouragement to the educational officers, and will accordingly hinder the progress of education in the provinces. The former scale of pay was wisely fixed by the Government with regard to the amount and nature of work of each office, and the degree of responsibility attaching to it. When Mr. Elliot was the Inspector of Schools, he used to get Rs. 750 a month. But new a native has been appointed to the same office on Rs. 300 a month. The usual rate of pay allowed to a Deputy Inspector of Schools is Rs. 150 a month; but, on an office lately falling vacant, a new man, already getting Rs. 120 a month in the department, has been promoted to the post on Rs. 125 a month. The same is the case with the pay of teachers. Rao Raja Narain Bhái Dandaker, the Director, in his former appointment at Poona received only Rs. 350 a month. Why does he get now Rs. 1,000 a month? He should be allowed Rs. 400 a month. Even Rs. 1,000 does not satisfy him. He regards the present rate of his travelling allowance at Rs. 7 a day as inadequate, and wishes to have it raised.

LIST OF PAPERS EXAMINED.

No.	Name.	Locality.	Language.	Monthly, weekly, or otherwise.	Date.
					1876.
1	*Kashi Patrika*, ...	Benares ...	Hindí ...	Bi-monthly ...	Novr., 30th
2	*Khair Khwáh-i-Oudh*, ...	Lucknow ...	Urdú ...	Ditto ...	„ 26th
3	*Nûr-ul-Absár*, ...	Allahabad ...	Ditto ...	Ditto ...	Decr., 1st
4	*Rafah-i-'Am*, ...	Sialkote ...	Ditto ...	Ditto ...	Novr., 24th
5	*Syad-ul-Akhbár*, ...	Delhi ...	Hindí and Urdú ...	Tri-monthly ...	„ 20th
6	*Ádib i-Alam*, ...	Moradabad ...	Urdú ...	Weekly ...	„ 27th
7	*Akhbár-i-'Alam*, ...	Meerut ...	Ditto ...	Ditto ...	„ 23rd
8	*Akhbár-i-'Am*, ...	Lahore ...	Ditto ...	Ditto ...	„ 29th
9	*Akhbár-i-Nasim*, ...	Jaunpur ...	Ditto ...	Ditto ...	„ 21st
10	*Akmal-ul-Akhbár*, ...	Delhi ...	Ditto ...	Ditto ...	„ 25th
11	*Aligarh Institute Gazette*, ...	Aligarh ...	Urdú and English,	Ditto ...	„ 24th
12	*Anand Lahari*, ...	Benares ...	Mahrathi ...	Ditto ...	„ „
13	*Anjuman-i-Hind*, ...	Lucknow ...	Urdú ...	Ditto ...	„ 25th
14	*Anjuman-i-Panjáb*, ...	Lahore ...	Ditto ...	Ditto ...	„ 24th
15	*Benares Akhbár*, ...	Benares ...	Hindí ...	Ditto ...	„ 23rd
16	*Dabdabai Sikandari*, ...	Rámpur ...	Urdú ...	Ditto ...	„ 27th
17	*Gwaliór Gazette*, ...	Gwalior ...	Hindí and Urdú ...	Ditto ...	„ 19th
18	*Jalwá-i-Túr*, ...	Meerut ...	Urdú ...	Ditto ...	„ 24th
19	*Kárnamah*, ...	Lucknow ...	Ditto ...	Ditto ...	„ 27th
20	*Kavi Vachan Sudha*, ...	Benares ...	Hindí and English,	Ditto ...	„ „
21	*Khair Khwáh-i-Alam*, ...	Delhi ...	Urdú ...	Ditto ...	„ 24th
22	*Khair Khwáh-i-Hind*, ...	Ditto ...	Ditto ...	Ditto ...	„ „
23	*Khair Khwáh-i-Hindustán*, ...	Amritsar ...	Ditto ...	Ditto ...	„ 11th 18th & 25th
24	*Koh-i-Nur*, ...	Lahore ...	Ditto ...	Ditto ...	„ 25th
25	*Láma-i-Núr*, ...	Jaunpur ...	Ditto ...	Ditto ...	„ 12th
26	*Lauh-i-Mahfúz*, ...	Moradabad ...	Ditto ...	Ditto ...	„ 24th
27	*Lawrence Gazette*...	Meerut ...	Ditto ...	Ditto ...	„ 28th

List of Papers examined—(concluded).

No.	Name.	Locality.	Language.	Monthly, weekly, or otherwise.	Date.
					1876.
28	*Lytton Gazette*, ...	Delhi	Urdú	Weekly	Nov., 21st and 28th
29	*Mitwa Akhbár*, ...	Indore	Marathi	Ditto	„ 22nd
30	*Marwar Gazette*, ...	Jodhpur	Hindi and Urdú	Ditto	„ 25th
31	*Meerut Gazette*, ...	Meerut	Urdu	Ditto	„ 24th
32	*Mufid-i-Hind*, ...	Delhi	Ditto	Ditto	„ 28th
33	*Mufid-i-Nur*, ...	Cawnpore	Ditto	Ditto	„ 22nd
34	*Nur-i-Azam*, ...	Moradabad	Ditto	Ditto	„ 24th
35	*Nur-ul-Akhbar*, ...	Meerut	Ditto	Ditto	„ 28th
36	*Nur-i-Afshan*, ...	Ludhiana	Ditto	Ditto	„ 25th
37	*Nur-ul-Anwar*, ...	Cawnpore	Ditto	Ditto	„ „
38	*Punjabi Akhbar*, ...	Lahore	Ditto	Ditto	„ 27th
39	*Pushtu Akhbar*, ...	Patiala	Ditto	Ditto	„ „
40	*Shiqq-ul-Akhbar*, ...	Bhawulpur	Ditto	Ditto	„ 29th
41	*Sayr-i-Bodhana*, ...	Muzaffarnagar	Ditto	Ditto	„ 28th
42	*Shola-i-Tur*, ...	Cawnpore	Ditto	Ditto	„ 24th
43	*Special Science Congress Gazette*,	Jaipur	Ditto	Ditto	„ 30th
44	*Taj-ul-Akhbar*, ...	Rámpur	Ditto	Ditto	„ 25th
45	*Urdu Akhbar*, ...	Akola	Mahrathi	Ditto	„ 28th
46	*Urdu Akhbar* (*Akola*),	Ditto	Urdú	Ditto	„ „
47	*Vakil-i-Hindustan*, ...	Amritsar	Ditto	Ditto	„ 29th
48	*Vrit Dhara*, ...	Dhar	Mahrat hi	Bi-weekly	„ 25th and 28th
49	*Rahbar-i-Hind*, ...	Lahore	Urdú	Ditto	„ 22nd and 25th
50	*Rohilkhand Akhbar*,	Moradabad	Ditto	Tri-weekly	„ 26th and 29th
51	*Oudh Akhbár*, ...	Lucknow	Ditto		Nov. and 1st Decr.

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